



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600
FAX (828) 695-2497

Catawba County Social Services

Contact: Margaret Allen, Public Information Officer
828-695-2497 or mallen@catawbacountync.gov

TARGET FUNDS READING PROGRAM FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

NEWTON, N.C. – Young children in foster care in Catawba County recently participated in the Super Kids Reading Club, thanks to an Early Childhood Reading Grant from Target.

Catawba County Social Services organized the reading program, which took place during September and October. Foster children between the ages of 3 and 10 participated. The club kicked off with a party on Sept. 11. At that time, each child was able to select three age-appropriate books to take home and keep. They were also given materials for hands-on activities related to their books.

The children were encouraged to read their books, or have a reading time with their foster parent, at least twice a week. The reading club concluded with a party on Oct. 29. Each child received a certificate for participating in the program. The Target grant, in the amount of \$2,000, paid for 300 books plus incentives and activity materials. There were enough books and materials purchased through the grant to hold another reading club next year.

“The Super Kids Reading Club provided an early, fun and exciting way to get our community's children in foster care interested in reading,” said Adrienne Overby, educational advocate with Catawba County Social Services. “Giving the children their own books to keep with a simple, small, goal to achieve created a sense of ownership and success for them. The Super Kids Reading Club illustrated to them that reading is enjoyable and exciting. Reading also gives these young foster children some control over their lives with something they can do, or learn to do, on their own that no one can take away from them.”



Anna Grindstaff reads to children in the Super Kids Reading Club, sponsored by Catawba County Social Services and funded with a grant from Target. Grindstaff is dressed as Camilla Cream, the main character in “A Bad Case of Stripes.” The reading club was created to encourage young children in foster care to develop a love of reading.